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DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION

6 December 1950

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

Activities of the Interdepartmental Committee on Restriction  
of Publication of Government Statistics

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Deputy Director for Administration to AD/RR,  
dated 28 November 1950

1. In compliance with instruction contained in reference memorandum, I attended a meeting in the office of Mr. Stuart A. Rice, Assistant Director in charge of Statistical Standards in the Bureau of the Budget.

2. Two principal questions were laid before the committee which was composed of representatives of Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Justice, and CIA as well as the Bureau of the Budget. The first question was in relation to the release of statistical information on US expenditures for military purposes, balance of payments and other fundamental budgetary items to the twelve countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A similar request had been made by the twelve countries which are members of the Organization of European Economic Cooperation as well as of NATO. Since the release of these statistics to OEEC raises a serious question of security the Bureau of the Budget sought the advice of this committee before presenting their recommendations to a higher level committee described as "at the Assistant Secretary level". While no formal vote was taken, it was the consensus of opinion that should these statistics be released to the OEEC a very considerable risk existed that they would eventually find their way into Russian hands.

3. The second question laid before the committee concerned the restrictions on publication of import statistics in the US, particularly cargo manifests which are now available to the public. This request came from the Secretary of the Treasury. After some discussion, it was agreed that a letter would be drafted from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to the Secretary of the Treasury advising the reimposition of controls on import data and that this draft would be submitted for the consideration of the committee at another meeting.

4. It would appear that the role of CIA on this committee should be limited to an expression of opinion as to the value to a potential enemy of certain classes of economic and financial information over which controls may be established within the next six months. It is recommended that this office continue to

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represent the Agency although in some cases questions will arise which are more properly in the jurisdiction of the Security Office. In such cases the CIA position will be fully coordinated with that office.

THEODORE BABBITT

cc OIC  
Sec. Office

AD/RR:TB/vcl  
Orig. & 1 DDA  
1 - OIC  
1 - Sec. Office  
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